



# *Reserve Officers Association of the United States*

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ARMY \* NAVY \* AIR FORCE \* MARINE CORPS \* COAST GUARD \* PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE \* NOAA



18 July 1983

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[Redacted]  
Division of Public Affairs  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

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Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for returning cassette of Mr. McMahon's Salt Lake City talk and also for the transcription of the talk.

Per our telephone conversation today, I would like to request permission to use a portion of this talk as a by-lined article by Mr. McMahon in the next issue of the ROA National Security Report. Copies of the last two issues are attached.

Other articles presently firmly scheduled for the issue include one submitted by Mr. Weinberger, the Secretary of Defense; by General James P. Mullins, USAF, Commander of the Air Force Logistics Command; by Rear Admiral William McDermott, new Commander of the Naval Medical Command; and possibly one by Admiral James Gracey, USCGR, Commandant of the Coast Guard.

We could do the article here as a condensation of the Salt Lake City talk and then forward it to you for Mr. McMahon's approval.

There is a short suspense on this: copy must go to the layout studio sometime the week of July 25. I am prepared to go to your office as necessary--not too great a chore as the studio is in McLean and I have to be in the area anyway. We really do not have too much time to rely on the U. S. Mail, however.

Please let me know by phone at 479-2258/2200.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Editor

ROA National Security Report

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P.S. Mr. McMahon might be pleased to know that ROA passed a resolution supporting modification of the Freedom of Information Act per his comments to us. Our legislative office will be working with the Congress on this.

By John N. McMahon

RIGHT AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES WERE VIRTUALLY A MAN-TO-MAN DEFENSE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, PRINCIPALLY IN EUROPE. OUR JOB WAS TO FACE THE SOVIETS AND COUNTER THEIR EVERY MOVE.

WHEN THEY MOVED INTO LABOR UNIONS, WE MOVED IN. WHEN THEY WENT INTO CHURCH GROUPS, WE MOVED IN. WHEN THEY WENT INTO STUDENTS ASSOCIATIONS, WE MOVED IN.

BUT AS WE LOOKED AT THE SOVIET UNION IN THOSE DAYS, WE ALSO REALIZED THEY WERE UP TO SOMETHING MORE THAN THE POLITICAL SUBVERSION WHICH THEY ATTEMPTED TO SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD. WE WERE VIRTUALLY BLINDED TO WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE SOVIET UNION UNTIL THE U-2 AIRPLANE FLIGHTS OVER THE SOVIET UNION GAVE US A HINT OF WHAT THE SOVIETS WERE UP TO.

UNDER KHRUSHCHEV, THEY HAD DECIDED TO BUILD A STRATEGIC CAPABILITY SECOND TO NONE. TODAY WE FACE 2,500 STRATEGIC NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND IN THEIR SUBS AT SEA.

AFTER KHRUSHCHEV CAME BREZHNEV. SOMEWHAT CONTENT AT THE SUCCESS THAT THE SOVIETS HAD WITH STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS, BREZHNEV MOVED TO BUILD AN ENORMOUS CONVENTIONAL MILITARY CAPABILITY. UNDER ANDROPOV, TODAY THAT CONTINUES.

McMAHON

WE SEE A DIFFERENT DIMENSION IN THE SOVIET UNION TODAY. IT IS NOT SIMPLY CONTENT TO WORRY ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE WARSAW PACT AND THE LITTLE STATES AROUND IT. IT IS NOW MOVING WORLDWIDE.

COMPARED TO 1970 WHEN THE SOVIETS HAD SOME DEGREE OF INFLUENCE OR CONTROL OVER 25 NATIONS IN THE WORLD, TODAY THAT NUMBER IS 50. A LOOK AT THE GLOBE SHOWS THAT THE CHOKE POINTS ARE OVERSEEN BY THE SOVIETS OR SOVIET SURROGATES.

VIETNAM CONTROLS THE MOLUCCA STRAITS AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ON THAT SIDE. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CRITICS BACK IN THE VIETNAM DAYS WHO SCOFFED AT THE DOMINO THEORY? WHAT DID THEY SAY AFTER SOUTH VIETNAM FELL AND AFTER LAOS AND AFTER CAMBODIA? WHAT ARE THEY SAYING TODAY WHEN VIETNAM SHELLS RAIN INTO SOVEREIGN THAI TERRITORY IN PURSUIT OF THE CAMBODIAN INSURGENTS? WHAT DID THEY SAY WHEN THE SOVIETS MOVED INTO AFGHANISTAN, SOMETHING THEY HAD COVETED TO DO FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS? TODAY THEY'RE THERE WITH 105,000 COMBAT TROOPS, BUT MIRED DOWN IN THE FACE OF INSURGENT OPPOSITION.

THE SOVIETS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO MOVE INTO SOMALIA AND EGYPT. BUT NOW THEY SIT IN \_\_\_\_\_ WHERE THEY CAN CONTROL THE SUEZ CANAL. THEIR CUBAN SURROGATES ARE IN ANGOLA. THROUGH THEIR FRIENDS THE LIBYANS, THEY CONTINUE TO CAUSE TROUBLE IN MOROCCO AND THREATEN THE GIBRALTAR STRAITS.

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McMAHON

COME AROUND TO OUR OWN BACKYARD AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED IN CUBA AND THE HUGE MILITARY COMPLEX AND BASE THAT THE SOVIETS ENJOY THERE. NOW THEY'VE REACHED INTO THE MAINLAND OF NORTH AMERICA IN NICARAGUA.

CONSIDER THE DOMINO THEORY IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THINK OF WHAT HAPPENS IF SALVADOR FALLS, THEN GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, COSTA RICA, AND MEXICO. SOME OF THOSE VIETNAM CRITICS ARE STILL SQUAWKING TODAY. ONE WONDERS WHY.

IN ADDITION TO THE TIME AND ATTENTION THAT WE SPEND ON THE SOVIETS AND THEIR MILITARY AGGRESSION, WE ALSO WONDER AT THEIR ECONOMIC PLIGHT. HOW CAN THAT NATION CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IT DOES? IN THE LAST 15 YEARS IT HAS DOUBLED IN REAL DOLLARS ITS DEFENSE EFFORTS. ONE-EIGHTH OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT GOES INTO MILITARY EXPENDITURES, AN AMAZING FEAT.

THERE IS ANOTHER THREAT -- THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, A STUDY OF SOVIET MILITARY SYSTEMS SHOWED, ESSENTIALLY, NOT AN EVOLUTION OF TECHNOLOGY, BUT RATHER LARGE-SCALE JUMPS. SUDDENLY THEY WERE ABLE TO COME UP WITH GUIDANCE SYSTEMS, WITH ACCURACIES IN GYROS, PRECISIONS IN BEARINGS WHICH NO WAY THEY COULD DEVISE THEMSELVES. INDEED, WE FOUND OUT THEY STOLE THEM.

McMAHON

A LOOK AT THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IN THE SOVIET ARSENAL WILL SHOW THAT ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THEM CAME THROUGH ILLEGAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, EITHER THROUGH ILLEGAL TRADE OR THROUGH ACTUAL <sup>S</sup>ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS.

THE SOVIETS AND THEIR FRIENDS IN EUROPE ENJOY 30 COMPANIES RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES FULLY OWNED BY THE SOVIET UNION, EAST GERMANS, CZECHS OR POLES. IT'S QUITE EASY FOR THESE SOVIET FIRMS TO OBTAIN EQUIPMENT THAT THEN LEAVES THIS COUNTRY AS HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OR GOES THROUGH SURROGATE OR BOGUS TRADING COMPANIES.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO WE WENT TO EUROPE TO BRING THIS MESSAGE TO THE EUROPEANS, AND WE REALIZED TO TREAT IT AS TRADE WAS WRONG. THERE'S A TREMENDOUS DRIVE IN EUROPE TO TRADE WITH THE EAST, AND WE ALWAYS BUMPED INTO THE EUROPEANS WHEN WE TRIED TO IMPACT ON THAT. BUT OUR MESSAGE WAS A SIMPLE ONE. IT WAS NOT TRADE, IT WAS A COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROBLEM. AND MORE THAN THAT, THEY WERE BEING ROBBED.

WE SAW THAT THE SOVIETS HAD THE PLANS TO THE C-5A BEFORE IT FLEW. THE GYROS AND THE BEARINGS IN THE SS-18, THE MOST POWERFUL ICBM THERE IS, CAME OUT OF THE UNITED STATES DESIGNS. THEY HAVE A LOOK-DOWN \_\_\_\_\_ RADAR. THE RADAR IN THEIR AWACS IS VIRTUALLY OURS. THE LASER RANGE-FINDER IN THEIR TANKS WAS A UNITED STATES PRODUCT.

McMAHON

AND SOMEHOW, THIS HAS TO BE STOPPED. THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON IT. IN THE LAST FIVE OR SIX MONTHS, SOME 90 SOVIETS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THEIR ILLEGAL AND ILLICIT ACTIVITIES IN TRYING TO ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

AS WE WORRY ABOUT THE INTELLIGENCE PROBLEMS OF THE '80s, LOOK BACK AT OUR BASE IN THE '70s. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN THE 1970s? IT WAS REDUCED 40 PERCENT IN ITS PEOPLE AND 50 PERCENT IN THE DOLLAR RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IT. IT'S NO WONDER THAT WE'RE ALMOST STARTING FROM SCRATCH TO REBUILD THE CAPABILITY. FORTUNATELY, WITH THE GOOD GRACE OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, WE ARE ON THE WAY BACK AND WE ARE BUILDING UP OUR CAPABILITIES ONCE MORE TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE US WORLDWIDE.

WE ALSO FIND THAT WE HAVE SOPHISTICATED POLICYMAKERS WHO ENJOY THE WORD REQUIREMENTS. THE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUE TO HEAP UPON US, BUT NO ONE BOTHERS TO ERASE ONE OFF THE BOTTOM. SO LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT INTELLIGENCE TODAY IS A GROWTH INDUSTRY.